

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for distributing electronic media content over a network, comprising the steps of:

providing a predetermined electronic contract for distributing the electronic media content between a retailer and a distributor, wherein terms of the contract are independent of the electronic media content and the retailer distributes the electronic media content to a consumer and the distributor has rights in the electronic media content;

presenting a candidate retail offer for the distribution of the electronic media content to the consumer;

receiving a request from the consumer to exercise the candidate retail offer;

validating the candidate retail offer for the distribution of the electronic media content by accessing the electronic contract and determining if that the candidate retail offer is consistent with the electronic contract;

upon successful validation, providing the electronic media content to the consumer;

receiving compensation information from the consumer, after successful validation, indicating at least the amount of compensation for the electronic media content provided; and

allocating the compensation according to the electronic contract.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as in claim 1, wherein the validating step further comprises the steps of:

referencing, in the predetermined electronic contract, one or more terms for electronic distribution of the media content;

comparing the candidate retail offer to the one or more distribution terms; and

validating the candidate retail offer when the candidate retail offer is consistent with the one or more distribution terms, and prior to completion of the candidate retail offer.

3. (Canceled)